

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising Component A and Component B;

wherein Component A comprises: gypsum, an alkaline first polymer, an alkaline agent selected from the group consisting of ammonia, primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, hydroxide, carbonate, bicarbonate, and acetate salts of alkaline metals, and a hydration inhibitor selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid and fumaric acid;

wherein Component B comprises: an addition second polymer, a filler, and an activator, the alkaline polymer, hydration inhibitor, and addition polymer differing from one another; and wherein both Components A and B are dispersed in an aqueous medium.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the volume ratio of Component A to Component B is from 95:5 to 5:95.

4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein Component A comprises: 20-50 wt% alkaline first polymer, 50-80 wt% gypsum, 0.05-1.0 wt% alkaline agent, and 0.1-2.0 wt% hydration inhibitor, based on the total weight of Component A.

5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein Component B comprises: 20-70 wt% second polymer; 30-50 wt% filler and 0.1-6.0 wt% activator, based on the total weight of Component B.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a polymer-modified gypsum comprising forming Component A and Component B; wherein Component A comprises: gypsum, an alkaline first polymer, an alkaline agent selected from ammonia, primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, hydroxide, carbonate, bicarbonate, and acetate salts of alkaline metals, and a hydration inhibitor selected from polymers and copolymers of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid and fumaric acid; wherein Component B comprises: an addition second polymer, a filler, and an activator, the alkaline polymer, hydration inhibitor, and addition polymer differing from one another; and wherein both Components A and B are dispersed in an aqueous medium; and

admixing Component A and Component B.

7. (Original)The method of claim 6 further comprising applying said admixture to a substrate.

8. (Original)The method of claim 7 wherein the substrate is the excavated rock surface of a subterranean mine.

9.(Original)A polymer-modified gypsum formed by the method of claim 6.

10-12. (Canceled).